

On page 3, please insert the title --DETAILED DESCRIPTION-- before the paragraph that begins with "Referring to Figure 1 . . ."

In the Claims:

✓ Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) A connector according to claim 1 [or 2], wherein means are provided to prevent the [or each] contact holder from being blown out of the associated connector element.

5. (Amended) A connector according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the [or each] contact holder is slidable in a bore such that the closed chamber is defined between the contact holder and walls of the bore.

6. (Amended) A connector according to [any preceding] claim 1, wherein the means for locking the [or each] contact holder to the said contact of the other connector elements comprise one or more locking balls which are retained in locking engagement between the connector element and the contact holder unless the contact holder is in the first position.

7. (Amended) A connector according to [any preceding] claim 1, comprising means for locking the [or each] contact holder in the first position when the contact elements are separated.

8. (Amended) A connector according to claim 7, wherein the locking means maintain the [or each] contact holder in the first position unless the contact elements are interengaged.

9. (Amended) A connector according to claim 8, wherein the locking means comprise a spring-biased slider displaceable as a result of interengagement of the connector elements from one position in which it retains one or more locking balls in locking engagement between the connector element and the contact holder with the contact holder in the first position and a further position in which the [or each] locking ball is released and the contact holder is displaceable to the second position.